decreased from the level of 60% in 1990-91 to 48% in 1995-96 due to increase in the demand for crude oil and petroleum products from various sectors of the economy.

(c) The achievement of self sufficiency in crude oil production would depend upon new discoveries of oil reserves and increasing production from existing fields. Various seps being taken by the Government to increase production are—

(1) Implementation of new projects/ schemes and additional development of existing fields.

(2) Implementation of EOR Schemes and extending some of EOR's Schemes from pilot scale to full scale fields application.

(3) Implementation of specialised tech-nologies such as ERD, side track, horizontal and drain hole drilling.

(4) Obtaining services of international experts wherever considered necessary.

(5) 3D seismic survey of the oil fields.

(6) Rectificatory measures like long/ short drift side track, drain hole have been planned for revival of sick wells which still have potential.

(7) Encouraging the participation of private/JV in the oil sector.

(8) Enhancing exploration of hydrocar bons and increasing reserves through seismic surveys, deep water exploration and exploration in fron tier areas.

Natural Gas Based LPG Extraction Plants in Maharashtra

1975. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up natural gas based LPG extraction plants for recovery of LPG from natural gas, to augment avalability of LPG in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to augment availability of LPG in Maharashtra?

THE-MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Gas Authority of India Limited is setting up a natural Gas based LPG plants at Usar to produce 139500 tonnes per annum of LPG.

(c) A grassroots refinery of 6 MMTPA capacity has been planned at Deogarh, Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra, which would increase the availability of LPG in the State. In addition new LPG import facilities are being put up by private parties at Mumbai, Ratnagiri and Nhava Sheva in Maharashtra to enable higher import of LPG.

Credit Facilities to Transport Corpora-tions

1976. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any facilities are being given by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to Government-owned trans port corporations;

(b) whether the credit facilities given to the private dealers have been stopped recently; and

(c) if so, whether the said facilities would be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have extended credit facilities to some Government-owned Transport Corporations on a selective basis.

(b) and (c) The credit facilities extended to some of the retail outlets on a selective basis by these companies have not been stopped.